



# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Tucson Fire Department**

**Fire Chief Dan Newburn**



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### **Household Drowning Hazards**

A secured pool reduces the risk of drowning. But for infants and toddlers there are many hazards in the home that could cause a water related injury. Drowning can occur in a matter of seconds and in as little as one inch of water. If small children are not being supervised around even small amounts of water an injury can occur. Bathtubs account for the majority of non-pool related drowning deaths. Other water hazards include buckets, toilets, wading pools, decorative ponds and fountains.

The Tucson Fire Department would like to remind parents and caregivers to observe these safety tips when children are around bathtubs, spas, buckets, decorative ponds or fountains:

- Never leave young children alone near any water. Young children can drown in even small amounts of water.
- Always keep a young child within arm's reach in a bathtub. Never leave to answer the phone, answer the door, get a towel or for any other reason. If you must leave, take the child with you.
- Don't leave a baby or toddler in a bathtub under the care of another young child. This scenario resulted in one drowning and one near drowning in the last three years in Tucson.
- Remove toys and wash cloths when draining the tub as they can prevent proper drainage. This scenario played a role in the drowning death of a two-year-old girl three years ago in Tucson.
- Never leave a bucket containing even a small amount of liquid unattended. Toddlers can fall headfirst into buckets and drown. After using a bucket, always empty and store it where young children cannot reach it. Buckets left outside can collect rainwater and are a hazard. This scenario played a role in the drowning death of a two-year-old girl five years ago in Tucson.
- Prevent children from gaining access to spas or hot tubs when not in use; always secure with safety covers and barriers.
- Learn CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation). It can be a lifesaver when seconds count.

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